

8/14/68

Dear Paul,

Hal and Gary have come to know each other here. Gary and Vince came down weekend before last. Vince returned Sunday before last, Gary Friday. He returned yesterday evening for a few days. He will take Hal all or part of the way home. I am sorry they cannot both stay longer. Hal has gone over a small part of my material. He has, however, read my three unpublished manuscripts and what he says (almost) makes me blush. I am happy that Vince and Gary, neither of whom is effusive, share his opinion.

COUP D'ETAT is completed, save for the typing of one chapter and part of another. There are, I suppose, some last-minute additions, but I anticipate none of any consequence (in time or length). I may add a chapter that I had intended adding to POST MORTEM. As soon as these are done, I'll send you a copy. I'd appreciate your suggestions as soon as possible. If you could do it in the form of notes, separately, rather than on the ms (viz. p. 87, line 2, delete "the"), Jonn has asked to be able to read it. I told him he might get it from you.

Vince was the first to say these books had to be out immediately. The others, as they read them, agreed. There is little prospect. I have the incomplete copy of POST MORTEM (which all agree is the most powerful destruction of the Report yet, and I suggest less hasty reading and deeper thought will suggest additional things) in the hands of a possible publisher. I have no hope. It is too strong, by far, to total and overwhelming.

The problem becomes one of money again, with the additional problem in distribution, I think, more of a problem than I have ever had, for a number of reasons I cannot go into after but three hours of sleep. Because I have no sources to tap, I think the only possibility is a foundation of some sort, and there I think the prospects, if I had time to approach them (which I do not) is slight. I have tried a few in the past. My deepest regret was at Santa Barbara. What I need is so slight a sum for any of them, it really hurts. With Post Mortem, I think it essential to publish the appropriate documents. This will considerably increase the manufacturing cost of the book and double its size, as compared with my earlier ones. It will cost me at least twice as much to manufacture it and I will have other added costs. I feel it will be impossible to raise the selling price (and my earlier "successes" leave me in deep debt), so I will have to have some kind of help in any event on this alone.

COUP D'ETAT, with the right help, should cost nothing to do, for we all agree that it should have a fantastic sale among black people, who could sell it and raise funds for their own groups thereby. It has the suppressed story of the Birmingham bombing, more than the documents you have seen, and I have added others that exist and are published but unknown to it. I have, most powerful of all, the tape itself. There were not fewer than three NSRP threats against JFK, one in Texas from the people who did attack Stevenson. I have some new correspondence with the Secret Service, proof they knew of the tape to add to what I had, in writing from them. Because this book has a narrower range in contents, it is more comprehensible than those dealing with wider ranges in content and evidence. I project an appendix for it also. It involves the man who attacked Nat King Cole also and should have a wide appeal to Jews. I wish this could make me optimistic.

Particularly because of what I learned last night do I regard it as very important that this one come out immediately and POST MORTEM as fast as possible. Epstein's book attacking Garrison, either the New Yorker article or an expansion, is being done by Viking. This I have known. It is due in September, which means that it probably was being done before the article was published

and in any event is being rushed more than Inquest was. Unless it is an initial paperback, which I think unlikely, it represents a considerable extra cost for Viking. I have a line in A CITIZEN'S DESCENT that I think you may enjoy: "Epstein's marriage to the New Yorker was consummated in Viking's bed." All three friends, incidentally, agree that this attack and this kind of an attack on Mark is necessary, and Sprague and Jones agree. Jones, however, despite his personal hatred for Mark, pretends he can be of no help.

There is only one way to effectively fight this new Epstein ploy, and that is by having available what is new that proves the opposite of what he is really saying, that we are all wrong (except Sylvia and Lifton). Vinke and Gary and Hal want me to do with Epstein what I did with Mark. I have agreed if I can help certain limited help, though I want most of all to return to TIGER TO RISE and get that done. If necessary, we can discuss this later. I would use the format of the article I have done and the technique of PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH for a short book, with pictures and documents, etc.

Were it suddenly to become possible for me to do the first two books as private printings, it would take perhaps two weeks when my wife had nothing else to do and I could take pretty much of my time to get it ready for the camera. It would take perhaps another week before the copies started coming off the presses and bindery. With a little help and a little added cost, the time could be shortened. COUP should not be more expensive than WHITEWASH. I do not know how much printing costs have gone up, but if these increases were not great, it might even cost a little less, if I can make the same arrangements I did before. This would mean a cash (in advance) cost of about \$3,500. This would cover the printer alone and include none of the collateral costs, most of which could be deferred.

Friday I lunched with Bud Fensterwald, when we arranged to dine at his home last night. We had a long talk Friday. Last night I took Hal there for dinner. Jones and Sprague were there. Our conversation was somewhat diffuse, especially when Dick started going over his pictures in excessive detail and spent much time on what was not of interest to Bud. Hal has notes we made when we returned, lasting until after 3 a.m. He will tell you. However, he agrees with me that this man is and probably represents a powerful addition to our side. He is coming here tomorrow or the next day. His work has been in certain narrow areas, from what I can learn, but there he has done what we cannot. I will help him all I can. I'll soon know whether he can or will help me. Hal has agreed that his class can undertake some work for Bud. Incidentally, if someone can, as soon as possible, comb the NYTimes index for all reference to Milteer, Jack H. Brown (including his death in 1965) and his son, Kenneth Adams (the King Cole man, also suspected of other Birmingham violence) and get me Xerox copies as rapidly as possible, I'd appreciate it. Also, if possible, the identity of any good picture showing the physical violence used on Stevenson in Dallas and pictures of these men. I'd like to include in appendix.

Well, I got up with little sleep to do more than write this letter. Hal was going to write about the immediately-preceding request, so I have saved him this time. I must write another letter and get some work ready for my wife before I awaken the others and we leave for Washington, where they will spend part of the day in the Archives. Please pardon the errors, for I will not have time to correct. If one of the others is ready in advance, perhaps I can get him to.

One final comment: I think the NBRP stuff in particular gives us something we have lacked. We can get more. We can get access to the "informant" in the reports and tape. I will have the tape to use on radio and TV when the book is out. I have the literal text.

Best regards,